NIK-100US

Appln. No.: 09/863,593

Amendment Dated: July 5, 2006

Reply to Office Action of: April 5, 2006

## **Remarks**

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-34 and 78-92 are pending. Claims 1 and 86 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 86 have been canceled. Claim 93 has been newly added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the remarks below and the amendments to the claims.

## Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,754,831 to Berman. Claims 1 and 86 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request therefore that the rejection of claims 1 and 86 be withdrawn.

## Newly Added Claim 93

Support for newly added claim 93 may be found in paragraph number 40 on page 9 of the originally-filed specification (paragraph 41 of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0105911 A1). No new matter has been added. Claim 93 is patentable by virtue of its dependency on allowable claim 3.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 3-14, 16-34, 78-85 and 87-92 are allowed. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: July 5, 2006

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